

Chapter 5: Plan Implementation

Partnerships

The future of Rydell National Wildlife Refuge, like most national wildlife refuges, is dependent upon a public constituency that is aware of Refuge and environmental issues and that is willing to work toward resolving them. The expanded educational, recreational, and partnership opportunities proposed by this CCP will help build and maintain this constituency. Promoting the Refuge as a natural and recreational asset in northwestern Minnesota will enhance the Refuge's image and help build public support.

A key component in implementing the CCP will be the development of partnerships with organizations, agencies, and individuals. Partnership potential exists with institutions and organizations that include:

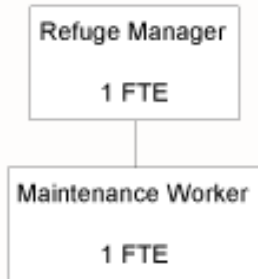
- University of Minnesota-Crookston
- Friends of the Rydell Refuge
- Agassiz Environmental Learning Center
- Local school districts
- Maple Lake Improvement Association
- Options Resource Center for Independent Living
- Polk County Park Board
- East Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Advanced Hunter Education Program
- Fertile Conservation Club
- Minnesota Deer Hunters Association
- Numerous individual volunteers
- Ruffed Grouse Society
- Minnesota Waterfowl Association
- Ducks Unlimited



The refuge manager will seek to establish partnerships with these and other organizations or agencies that have an interest in working together to benefit wildlife, the Refuge, and their communities.

Personnel Needs

Figure 9: Current Staffing



A manager and a maintenance worker are assigned to the Refuge operations (see Figure 9). Eventually, as many as five staff members, including a park ranger, biological technician, and clerk, will be stationed at the Refuge to implement the goals and objectives identified in this CCP (see Figure 10). In addition, a paid position for a volunteer coordinator is expected to be funded through a cost share partnership with the Friends of the Rydell Refuge Association. Annual Work Plans will reflect the priorities and intent of the long-range CCP. When discretionary funding and staff time is available, it will be used to implement additional components of the plan.

Step-down Management Plans

The CCP provides broad conceptual guidance for future protection, management, and development of the Rydell National Wildlife Refuge. Before the projects are implemented, additional detailed plans will need to be prepared. Refuge staff will continue to look for innovative partnerships with local professionals and businesses to help with preparing the plans.

Several step-down management plans must be completed to better describe the planned work and to meet Service policy. Within the next 4 years the following plans will be completed:

- Inventory and Monitoring
- Habitat Monitoring
- Public Use
- Law Enforcement
- Cultural Resource Management
- Hunt Management
- Fire Management
- Cropland Management
- Fisheries Management
- Forest Management

Figure 10: Proposed Organization Chart



Funding

Funding will come through a variety of internal and external sources. Refuge Maintenance funds will be used to renovate some of the facilities identified in this plan. However, these funds are in short supply, and Refuge staff will look for ways of leveraging and matching dollars through new and innovative public and private sources. The full implementation of this plan will be dependent on new sources of funding as a result of partnerships and grants.

The Friends of the Rydell Refuge Association will be an important means of connecting the Refuge with interested local citizens and organizations that are willing and able to contribute time and money to the development of the programs identified in this plan. Volunteers will also play a critical role in assisting Refuge staff with fulfilling the future vision of Rydell National Wildlife Refuge.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is critical to successful implementation of this plan. Monitoring is necessary to evaluate the progress toward objectives and to determine if conditions are changing. The techniques and details for monitoring related to specific objectives will be specified in the Inventory and Monitoring Step-down Plan.

Every 5 years this plan will be revisited to document progress, reassess its direction and determine if any modifications are necessary to meet changing conditions. Public involvement in evaluating progress and plan implementation will be encouraged. Increased public visitation and new facilities will be evaluated for compatibility with Refuge purposes.